GROSS MARGARET A
76 STATE 311789

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY BAFlack DATE 4/12/80
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PAGE 01 STATE 311789
ORIGIN EA-09
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 JUSE-00 L-03 PRS-01 PA-01 SSO-00
/030 P
DRAFTED BY EA/K:FHUBWIT7:FLW
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HUMMEL
P - MR. ODONOHUE
L - MR. LEIGH
JUSTICE - MR. SCOTT
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: N S
TAGS: PFOR, KS, US
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON ROKG STATEMENTS
REF: (A) SEOUL 10190, (B) SEOUL 10208, (C) STATE 311286, (D) SEOUL 10207
FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTIONS ON ROK STATEMENTS (REFS A AND B):
QUOTE
QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS REGARDING THE TONGSUN PARK CASE, THE BLUE HOUSE BUGGING CHARGES AND THE DEFECTOR, KIM SANG-KUN?
ANSWER: WITH REGARD TO THE TONGSUN PARK ISSUE, AS WE HAVE
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SAID BEFORE, WE CANNOT COMMENT ON A MATTER WHICH IS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY JUSTICE.
ON THE BUGGING ALLEGATIONS, YOU ARE AWARE THAT WE DON'T PUBLICLY COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. (GUIDANCE IN REF C TO BE USED FOR SPECIFIC QUESTION ON THIS ISSUE.)
ON THE KIM SANG-KUN CASE, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, MR. KIM HAS ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO REMAIN IN THE U.S. HE IS NOT UNDER CUSTODY OF ANY KIND AND IS FREE TO RETURN TO HIS EMBASSY OR LEAVE THE COUNTRY AT ANY TIME. MR. KIM HAS INFORMED HIS AMBASSADOR IN WRITING ON TWO OCCASIONS THAT HE HAS DECIDED TO STAY IN THE U.S. FOR PERSONAL REASONS AND THAT HIS DECISION WAS TOTALLY VOLUNTARY.
QUESTION: THE KOREAN STATEMENT EMPHASIZES THAT IN SPITE OF CURRENT STRAINS, THE ROKG WANTS TO MAINTAIN OUR TRADITIONALLY CLOSE TIES. IS THAT OUR VIEW AS WELL?
ANSWER: YES. WE HAVE REITERATED THIS PUBLICLY ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND HAVE SO ASSURED THE ROKG.
QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE FAILURE OF THE KOREAN EMBASSY TO GAIN ACCESS TO KIM SANG-KUN?

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ANSWER: WE REPEATEDLY INFORMED MR. KIM OF THE DESIRE OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO HAVE HIM MEET WITH A KOREAN OFFICIAL, AND MR. KIM FINALLY AGREED TO DO SO. HE STIPULATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE OFFICIAL MUST BE MINISTER-COUNSELOR KOO OF THE KOREAN EMBASSY. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THAT MR. KIM MEET WITH ANY EMBASSY OFFICIAL OF HIS CHOICE, DID NOT AGREE TO HAVE THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR MEET WITH MR. KIM, AND IS REQUESTING THAT MR. KIM MEET INSTEAD WITH THE AMBASSADOR.
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QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT THE FBI PREVENTED MR. KIM FROM MEETING WITH HIS BROTHER, AS THE STATEMENT CLAIMS?
ANSWER: NO. MR. KIM TOLD US THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO SEE HIS BROTHER.
QUESTION: WHAT WOULD YOU CALL MR. KIM'S STATUS IF HE IS NOT IN CUSTODY.
ANSWER: HE HAS ASKED FOR PROTECTION AND IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE U.S. MARSHAL'S SERVICE.
QUESTION: WHAT DOES HE NEED PROTECTION FROM?
ANSWER: I CAN'T SPECULATE ON THAT. UNQUOTE
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